

DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, July 21, 2008 - 5:00 p.m.
Room 402 City Hall

Ron Boshey, Antoinette Dickenson, Donna Ennis, Anthony LaDeaux, Warner Wirta, Michele Gordon, Joycelyn Dorscher, Dr. Robert Powless, Beatrice Kitto, Ricky DeFoe

Members Present: Donna Ennis, Anthony LaDeaux, Warner Wirta, Michele Gordon, Dr. Robert Powless, Ricky DeFoe, Beatrice Kitto, Ron Boshey,

Excused Absent:

Absent: Antoinette Dickenson

Staff present: Karen Olesen

Others present: See sign-in sheets. .

CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Motion by Dr. Bob Powless, seconded by Ron Boshey, to approve the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 16, 2008 MEETING:

Motion by Warner Wirta, seconded by Dr. Bob Powless, to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2008 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC FORUM / OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Will Williams – was a victim of a stabbing in Lincoln Park on June 26, 2008. He is frustrated because nothing is being done. There is a slow response to his calls for help. He continues to be harassed by these people.

Gordon Ramsey – In response to Mr. William's story Mr. Ramsey apologized for the slow progress. He is aware of the situation and is investigating the situation. Civilian Review Board meetings have been well attended by the police. Mr. Ramsey said he and his department are very interested in having a CRB. The Chief said there are a lot of things going on behind the scenes that the community isn't aware of. All sexual assaults of Native American woman are investigated by a group of Native people.

OLD BUSINESS:

Indian Center Project Update and Discussion –

Sherry Sanchez-Tibbitts said the historic building has been purchased. She has more funding that needs to be secured. The UMD Medical School will locate their Hope Clinic in the new building.

Spirit Mountain Recreation Area Master Plan – Report from the Subcommittee on the Public Open House Held to Review the Plan –

Warner outlined four items that he wants included in the proposed Spirit Mountain Plan. He continues to be concerned about the lack of inclusion of Native American people in the planning. Dr. Bob will talk to Karen Diver and Mike Himango about communicating and advocating to the Spirit Mountain Board the wants and needs of the Native American community. Warner will invite members of the Board to a future Commission meeting.

Ten Principles for an Effective Civilian Review Board, Outline –

Tony submitted a report on the CRB best practices model. This is just a rough draft.

Natural Environment Issues (Barrels in Lake Superior) -

Ricky delivered a powerful speech regarding the barrels on Lake Superior Day. It was held on July 20, 2008.

Update on the Bi-aus-wah Bridge Project –

Dr. Bob reported on the signs being put up at the Bridge Project. Ricky did the ceremony for the grand opening. The signs are now up.

NEW BUSINESS:

ISD 709 Issues – “Memorandum of Agreement Between the Minneapolis Public Schools and Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors –

Cruz Mendota discussed the memorandum.

Set Date, Place and Agenda for the Annual Duluth Indian Community Forum –

The annual Community Feast and Forum will be held on August 21st from 5:00 to 8:00. Donna Ennis will make up a flyer for the event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPCOMING EVENTS AND COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Dr. Bob: He has known Joy for many years. He noted that she often apologizes to others.

Warner Wirta: He believes this group epitomizes Democracy.

Bea Kitto: Very grateful for the new Indian Center.

Tony LaDeaux: He will always advocate for victims of racism.

Ron Boshey: Was offended by some derogatory comments by a weather report.

Ricky DeFoe: He is honored to be part of the Commission. It is upsetting to hear about hate crimes.

Donna Ennis: Is worried about Gordon Ramsey walking away from the table.

Michele Gordon: She believes that things will happen the way things are meant to happen.

Joy Dorscher: It was good to start out the meeting talking about family. She is hoping she didn't offend Ricky or Tony in discussing the CRB.

NEXT MEETING/DATE/LOCATION: August 18, 2008 at 5:00

ADJOURNMENT: 8:00